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INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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DEPTEL 1676

I SAW CHANCELLOR THIS MORNING AND CONVEYED INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFERENCE TELEGRAM. HE SAID WE HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY BRIEFED BY ERHARD, WESTRICK, HIMSELF AND OTHERS OVER LONG PERIOD ON COAL SITUATION GERMANY. UNITED STATES INTEREST WAS FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC, HIS LARGELY POLITICAL. INTOLERABLE CONDITIONS HAD ARISEN IN RUHR, ALWAYS CLASSICAL AREA OF DISCONTENT. COMMUNIST INFLUENCES INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE THERE BECAUSE OF COAL SURPLUSES. BITTER ATTACKS ON HIM FOR NOT HAVING EARLIER TAKEN REMEDIAL STEPS. HE WAS READY IF NECESSARY TO EXPLAIN POLICY TO SECRETARY. I HAD IMPRESSION CHANCELLOR RESENTED REPRESENTATIONS THIS SUBJECT AGAIN BEING MADE TO HIM.

CONCURRENTLY EMBASSY OFFICER HAD CONVERSATION WITH WESTRICK, REPORTED SEPARATE TELEGRAM.

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